

Children's Investment Fund supports mental health agency

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Tualatin Valley Centers, a nonprofit provider of mental health and addiction services in the greater Portland area, has been awarded two grants from the **Portland Children's Investment Fund** totaling more than \$398,000.

The funds will provide additional staff in the Family and Community Alliance program and will allow the 43-year-old Tualatin Valley Centers (TVC) to serve 120 additional families in the Portland area.

The grants include about \$213,000 for the Family and Community Alliance program and more than \$184,000 for the Youth Support Team program. The Family and Community Alliance program uses a model of outreach that engages vulnerable families before they become involved in mandated child protective services. Ongoing evaluation has demonstrated that families completing services are less likely to have second reports of child abuse.

"This award recognizes the work we've been doing, in partnership with other great agencies and programs, to get on the front end of the struggles and problems youth face and is a true investment in our community," said TVC President Mary Monnat in a prepared statement.

The Youth Support Team grant will expand an existing adolescent day treatment and supported classroom offering mental health and addiction services to high-risk adolescents and families residing in the North/Northeast and Southeast regions of Portland.

TVC has clinics and service centers in Multnomah, Washington and Clatsop counties.

In November 2002, Portland voters passed Measure 26-33, known as the Portland Children's Initiative. The measure established the Children's Investment Fund, which will invest up to \$10 million per year over the next five years to support proven programs that help young children.